

### TIR Convention



## TIR Regional Seminar in Central Asia

UNECE, in close cooperation with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, held a regional TIR seminar from 25 to 26 July in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyz Republic. The seminar was attended by some 60 participants from 10 countries and several international organizations.

The objectives of the seminar were to review the current status of the TIR Convention (The Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets) as the only existing global Customs transit regime and to analyse the opportunities and challenges for its application in Central Asia and neighbouring countries. High-level officials from Customs administrations and national TIR associations of a number of Contracting Parties reported on experiences in the application of the TIR procedure in various countries and regions. Additional presentations were also provided by UNECE and the International Road Transport Union.

The participants stressed the importance of the smooth application of the TIR Convention for the landlocked economies in Central Asia and recommended further steps to remove remaining administrative barriers at the borders in the region. □

Detailed information on the seminar can be found at:

<http://www.unece.org/tir/seminar/issyk-kul/sem-kyrgyzstan-english.html>.

### Water Convention



## UNECE promotes Water Convention at water and climate change adaptation conference in Mexico

From 17 to 20 July 2012, a representative of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Water Convention) participated in two international events on water and climate change adaptation in Mexico. On 17 July, the high level panel on water and climate organized by the Mexican Water Commission discussed climate change impacts on water resources as well as adaptation measures, with a particular focus on Mexico. Ranked 6<sup>th</sup> among the countries most affected by natural disasters worldwide, Mexico is currently experiencing both serious droughts and floods. The panel was opened by the director of the Mexican Water Commission and included speakers from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UNEP, as well as several Mexican organizations. It attracted significant media attention and led to reports in the national television, newspapers, radio and on the Internet.

UNECE's intervention at this panel focused on the need for transboundary cooperation in climate change adaptation. It showcased the support that the UNECE Water Convention provides in this regard through its programme of pilot projects on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins and its role as a platform for exchanging experience on this issue. There was significant interest by Mexican and other participants in these activities.

From 18 to 20 July, UNECE participated in the technical workshop on water and climate organized by UNFCCC. In cooperation with The Netherlands as lead Party, UNECE presented the activities on water and climate in transboundary basins under the Water Convention, including the outcomes of a group discussion on this issue. UNECE's work was praised as an "example for other organizations working on water and climate and the transition from assessment to action". The workshop was attended by more than 60 participants from all parts of the world. The workshop aimed, among other things, at discussing how the UNFCCC Nairobi work programme can deal with water and climate.

These two events provided an important opportunity for promoting the Water Convention, and in particular its work on climate change beyond the UNECE region. This is in line with the amendments to the Convention opening it worldwide, which should enter into force in the coming months. □

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### Active Ageing

## UNECE Policy Brief on Active Ageing

Did you know that living actively can make you gain several years? It will also have an impact on how fit you will be later in life. Active ageing, including exercise, social interaction, learning, working or volunteering, is a good investment at the individual level. It also requires investments at the societal level into establishing conducive frameworks, setting the right incentives and contributing to awareness-raising.



Active ageing, a concept developed several years ago, is gaining more and more momentum. It is understood as "a process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age" (WHO 2002). As a contribution to the discussion, UNECE has dedicated the latest issue of its Policy Briefs on Ageing to the topic. The Policy Brief suggests concrete policy measures, offers a checklist to policy-makers and highlights a series of good practice examples from across the region.



The Brief serves as a substantive contribution to discussions preparing the UNECE Ministerial Conference which will take place from 19 to 20 September 2012 in Vienna, Austria, under the motto: 'Ensuring a society for all ages: promoting quality of life and active ageing'. UNECE member States are currently invited to nominate their delegations and register online (deadline 15 August 2012): [http://www.unece.org/pau/ageing/ministerial\\_conference\\_2012.html](http://www.unece.org/pau/ageing/ministerial_conference_2012.html). □

The Policy Brief on Active Ageing is available at: [http://www.unece.org/pau/age/policy\\_briefs/welcome.html](http://www.unece.org/pau/age/policy_briefs/welcome.html).

## Off the Press

## Just published: English-Russian Glossary of Trade Facilitation Terms (new and revised edition)

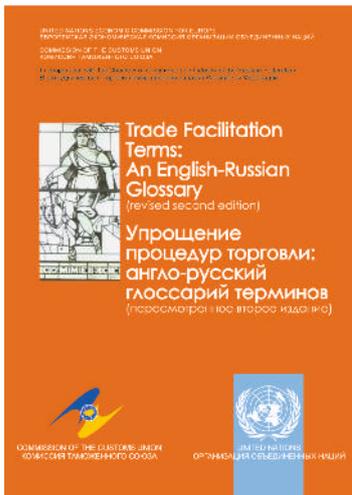
UNECE has just published the second edition of the English-Russian Glossary of Trade Facilitation Terms. The Glossary, which builds upon UNECE's 50 years of experience in developing and promoting trade facilitation standards, should be an invaluable contribution to trade facilitation in Russian-speaking countries. It is intended as the authoritative reference for trade facilitation terms in Russian.

The Glossary was prepared in cooperation with the Commission of the Customs Union of EurAsEC. Established in 2010, the Commission fosters the economic development of its members (Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation) through the creation of a common Customs territory, for which it has introduced advanced trade facilitation measures. In 2012, the Commission of the Customs Union of EurAsEC evolved into the Eurasian Economic Commission.

Following the Russian Federation's accession to the World Customs Organization's Revised International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (Revised Kyoto Convention), an official translation of the Convention was issued, and some Customs terms now have new official translations in Russian.

This new edition of the Glossary was developed at the request of the Commission to reflect these changes. It also incorporates contributions from the experts in the Russian Federation's WTO negotiation team. □

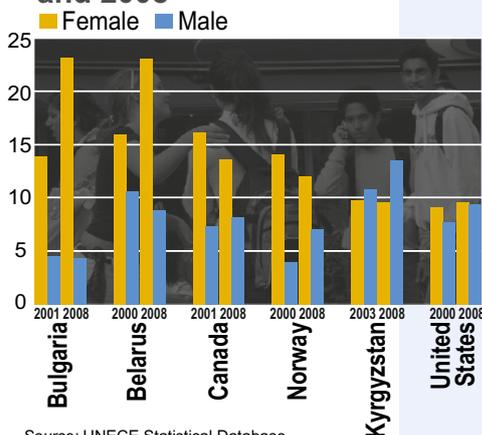
The Glossary can be ordered from the United Nations Publications Service at: <https://unp.un.org>. For further information about the Glossary, please contact: [mario.apostolov@unece.org](mailto:mario.apostolov@unece.org).



## Facts and Figures

## Some Eastern European countries show high proportions of underweight girls

Percentage of Adolescent Girls and Boys who are Underweight, 2000 and 2008 (or nearest available year)



Source: UNECE Statistical Database.  
Note: Adolescents are defined as 15-19 years old. Data for Belarus is for the age-group 16-19.

Adolescent girls in Western countries are well known to have a greater tendency to be underweight than their male counterparts, as reflected by eating disorders in the most severe cases. Being underweight can increase the risk of certain illnesses, or can be directly detrimental to health depending on the degree to which a person is underweight.

Data on the Body Mass Index of adolescents up to 2008 indicate that the proportions of underweight girls of this age have reached high levels in some Eastern European countries. Belarus and Bulgaria saw the proportion of underweight girls increase to around 23% of adolescents by 2008, while the prevalence of underweight amongst adolescent boys remained at much lower levels. In other UNECE countries for which data is available, the proportion of underweight females is generally lower than Belarus and Bulgaria, as can be seen on the chart. The USA has similar proportions of underweight girls and boys, whilst Kyrgyzstan has more underweight boys than girls. □